

RECEIVED  
AUG 06 1999  
FCC MAIL ROOM



ORIGINAL

11607 Eagle Drive • Post Office Box 1048 • Mont Belvieu, Texas 77580 • (281) 576-2213 • (281) 385-2266 • Fax (281) 385-2194

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

August 2, 1999

Chairman William Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*Ex Parte Filing* in cases WT 99-217; CC 96-98 /

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Please do not adopt the rule proposed in these cases allowing any phone company to serve any tenant of a building and to place their antenna on the building roof.

In some states 70 or more new phone companies have been certificated to provide service. Add in the wireless phone companies and under your rule you may have 100 companies allowed to place their wires in a building, and their antennas on the roof-all without the landlord's permission.

The FCC lacks the authority to do this. It would violate basic property rights-a landlord, city or condominium has the right to control who comes on their property. Congress did not give the FCC the authority to condemn space for 100 phones companies in every building in the country.

The FCC cannot preempt state and local building codes, zoning ordinances, environmental legislation and other laws affecting antennas on roofs. Zoning and building codes are purely matters of state and local jurisdiction which under Federalism and the Tenth Amendment you may not preempt.

For example, building codes are imposed in part for engineering related safety reasons. These vary by region, weather patterns and building type-such as the likelihood of earthquakes, hurricanes and maximum amount of snow and ice. If antennas are too heavy

Bob Lee  
Mayor  
Kevin Law • Lonnie Follis • Dennis Leonard • Judy Duncan • Dr. Gary L. Boehme  
City Council

Douglass F. Maurer  
City Administrator

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

2 Copies

or too high, roofs collapse. If they are not properly secured, they will blow over and damage the building, its inhabitants or passers-by.

Similarly, zoning laws are matter of local concern which protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare, ensure compatibility of uses, preserve property values and the character of our communities. We may restrict the numbers, types, locations, size and aesthetics of antennas on buildings (such as requiring them to be properly screened) to achieve these legitimate goals, yet see that needed services are provided. This requires us to balance competing concerns-which we do every day, with success. Everyone wants garbage picked up, no one wants a transfer station. Everyone wants electricity, no one wants a substation near their home.

The application of zoning principles is highly dependent on local conditions. These vary greatly state by state, from municipality to municipality and within municipalities. We have successfully applied these principles and balanced competing concerns for eighty years. Zoning has not unnecessarily impeded technology or the development of our economy, nor will it here. There is simply no basis to conclude that for a brand-new technology (wireless fixed telephones) with a minuscule tract record that there are problems on such a massive scale with the 38,000 units of local government in the U.S. as to warrant Federal action.

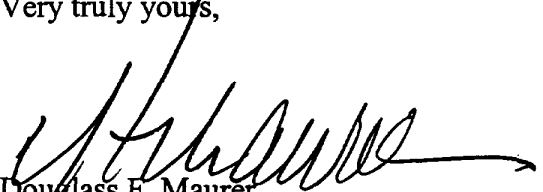
On rights of way, local management of them is essential to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Congress has specifically prohibited you from acting in this area.

We believe the telephone providers' complaints about rights-of-way management and fees are overblown, as shown by the small number of court cases on this-only about a dozen nationwide in the three years since the 1996 Act. With 38,000 municipalities nationwide and thousands of phone companies this number of cases shows that the system is working, not that it is broken.

Finally, we are surprised that you suggest that the combined Federal, state and local tax burden on new phone companies is too high. The FCC has no authority to affect state or local taxes any more than it can affect Federal taxes.

For these reasons, please reject the proposed rule and take no action on rights of way and taxes.

Very truly yours,



Douglass F. Maurer  
City Administrator

Page 3 – Chairman Kennard

Cc:

Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Susan Ness  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas (two copies)  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Ms. Barrie Tabin  
Legislative Counsel  
National League of Cities  
1301 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Robert Fogel  
Associate Legislative Director  
National Association of Counties  
440 First Street, N.W.  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Jeffery Steinberg  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Mr. Joel Tauenblatt  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

International Transcription Services  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Room CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

Mr. Kevin McCarty  
Assistant Executive Director  
U.S. Conference of Mayors  
1620 I Street  
Fourth Floor  
Washington, DC 20006

Mr. Lee Ruck  
Executive Director  
NATO  
1650 Tysons Road  
Suite 200  
McLean, VA 22102-3915

Mr. Thomas Frost  
Vice President, Engineering Services  
BOCA International  
4051 West Flossmoor Road  
Country Club Hills, IL 60478

Senator David Bernsen  
P.O. Box 822  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Representative Zeb Zbranek  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768